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REMARKS

Claims 1 and 9-14, as amended, and newly added claims 15 to 17 are before the Examiner. Claims 2 to 8 are canceled.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to replace the wording "consisting essentially of" with "consisting of." These claims now also expressly recite aluminum in the alloy composition. Claims 15 and 16 have been added, directed to an aluminum alloy wherein a content of the unavoidably contained impurities is not more than 0.05 wt% and 0.1 wt%, respectively. See applicants' specification, paragraph 0038. Claim 17 has been added, directed to an aluminum cast-forged product made of the aluminum alloy recited in claim 1. See applicants' specification, paragraph 0022.

1. In response to an oral restriction requirement on August 30, 2004, a Confirmation of Oral Restriction Requirement and Election was filed on September 3, 2004. Applicants confirm herewith the election of the invention of Group I, claims 1 and 9 to 14.

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2. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Schwellinger et al. U.S. Patent 4,525,326.

The aluminum alloy of this claim is one "consisting of" aluminum, 0.6 to 1.8 wt% of silicon, 0.6 to 1.8 wt% of magnesium, 0.8 wt% or less of copper, 0.2 to 1.0 wt% of manganese, 0.25 wt% or less of chromium, 0.0 to 0.15 wt% of titanium, and unavoidably contained impurities. This composition is nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited reference.

Schwellinger '326 is said to show Al-Mg-Si alloys within applicants' alloying ranges. However, Schwellinger '326 does not disclose aluminum alloys without Fe; all reference alloys contain at least 0.1% Fe. Claim 1 as revised patentably defines over the reference and the rejection should be withdrawn.

3. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by "Aluminum and Aluminum Alloys", pp. 22 to 23, 62 and 72 to 73. However, "Aluminum and Aluminum Alloys," as

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Schwellinger, does not disclose aluminum alloys without at least 0.1% Fe; see alloys 6066, 6151, 6351, 6082, 6081 and 6009.

This reference also does not teach or suggest the alloy of revised claim 1 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

4. Claims 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Schwellinger '326.

Schwellinger '326 is said to teach that Al-Mg-Si alloys have excellent mechanical strength. The reference, however, does not disclose the alloy recited in claim 9 as revised. In addition, Schwellinger '326 does not teach or suggest an aluminum alloy material that can be cast/processed similarly to high-concentration products such as AC4CH containing 3 wt% or more of silicon, and which can be processed in a final component such as AC4CH, without requiring low-speed casting, such as the presently claimed alloy. Claims 9 to 11 patentably define over the reference.

5. Claims 9 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over "Aluminum And Aluminum Alloys."

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As explained previously, "Aluminum And Aluminum Alloys" does not disclose the alloy recited in claim 1, which alloy materials are recited in claim 9 also. "Aluminum And Aluminum Alloys" does not disclose aluminum alloys without Fe. The reference alloys all contain at least 0.1% Fe. The rejection should be withdrawn.

6. Claims 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Schwellinger '326 and "Aluminum And Aluminum Alloys."

Claims 12-14, which depend from claim 9, are allowable for the same reasons that claim 9 is allowable. The Examiner admits that Schwellinger '326 does not disclose certain mechanical properties and cites "Aluminum And Aluminum Alloys" as allegedly teaching same. However, "Aluminum And Aluminum Alloys" does not disclose aluminum alloys without Fe. Thus, the claim patentably defines over the reference.

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The Examiner is thanked for acknowledging receipt of the certified copy of the priority document and for listing the references submitted with an Information Disclosure Statement.

Reconsideration of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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